

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01214 160750Z
ACTION EA-09

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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8013
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC CP HM SMITH HAW

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 1652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, CH, UR

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: PEKING 1140

1. SUMMARY: A PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY HAS DENOUNCED
RECENT SOVIET ATTACKS ON CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY AND VOWED
THAT PEKING WILL CONTINUE TO VOICE ITS OPPOSITON TO
SOVIET POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF THE
CONSEQUENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JUNE 16 PEOPLE'S DAILY FEATURES A "COMMENTATOR"
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ARTICLE WHICH REPLIES IN DETAIL TO RECENT SOVIET PRESS
ATTACKS ON CHINESE POLICIES. LIKE VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NINEN'S
JUNE 6 BANQUET SPEECH (REFTEL) THE COMMENTARY REFERS
DIRECTLY TO THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF LAST MONTH,
ACCUSING MOSCOW OF "BLACKMAILING AND BROWBEATING CHINA
WITH SUCH MENACING EXPRESSIONS AS 'FRAUGHT WITH DANGER-
OUS CONSEQUENCES' AND 'ASSUMING A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY'".

IT ALSO REPEATS LI'S CHARGE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE EXTENDING TO STATE RELATIONS THE DIFFERENCES ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. THE COMMENTARY DIVIDES SOVIET CHARGES INTO TWO CATEGORIES: THAT CHINA IS "WARLIKE" AND THAT IT IS "ANTI-SOVIET". IT RESPONDS BY SAYING THAT PEKING WILL CONTINUE TO WARN AGAINST THE DANGER OF A WORLD WAR AND TO EXPOSE AND REPUDIATE MOSCOW'S EVIL DOINGS AROUND THE WORLD. THEN, IN A SERIES OF RHETORICAL FLOURISHES, THE COMMENTARY DECLARES THAT "WE HAVE SHOWN AND WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW" THAT SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM HAS BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WORLD WAR IN THE PRESENT ERA; THAT SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM IS THE MOST VICIOUS TYPE OF NEO-COLONIALISM; AND THAT THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS ARE THE WORST RENEGADES TO MARXISM-LEININISM. (COMMENT: ON THE THIRD POINT, THE COMMENTARY STATES THAT "WE WOULD NOT BE MARXISTS IF WE FAIL" TO ATTACK SOVIET REVISIONISM, A FORMULATION WHICH MUST MAKE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN HANOI, PYONGYANG AND ELSEWHERE UNCOMFORTABLE, SINCE IT APPEARS TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE MARXISM OF THOSE LEADERS WHO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW.)

4. PEOPLE'S DAILY ALSO ACCUSES SOVIET PROPAGANDA OF DREDGING UP THE "YELLOW PERIL" BOGEY BY CLAIMING THAT CHINA "PLANS TO MAKE LANDINGS IN JAPAN AND THE PHILLIPINES AND AT SAN FRANCISCO". THE ARTICLE DOES NOT INDICATE THE SOURCE OF THIS STATEMENT.
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5. THE COMMENTARY ARGUES THAT THE STEP-UP IN SOVIET ANTI-CHINESE PROPAGANDA IS DUE NOT ONLY TO MOSCOW'S EARLIER FAILURE TO CHANGE PEKING'S FOREIGN POLICY LINE, BUT ALSO TO SOVIET DIFFICULTIES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING INCREASING OPPOSITION IN AFRICA, THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES DISPUTE WITH JAPAN, AND WESTERN EUROPE'S GROWING AWARENESS OF THE SOVIET THREAT. THE ANTI-PEKING UPSURGE, THEN, IS MOSCOW'S ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THE WORLD'S ATTENTION FROM ITS OWN DIFFICULTIES AND AMBITIONS BY CLAIMING THAT CHINA CONSTITUTES THE REAL DANGER.

6. IN A TOUCH OF BRAVADO, THE COMMENTARY CONCLUDES BY QUOTING DANTE'S "FOLLOW YOUR OWN COURSE, AND LET PEOPLE TALK". CHINA WILL PERSIST IN OPPOSING SOVIET REVISIONISM; "LET US WATCH HOW THEY ARE GOING TO ACT".
THOMAS

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